

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W

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P R 291255Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 441

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2783

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: BDIS, EFIN, PFOR, CD

SUBJ: GOC INACTION REGARDNG TRANSFER FUNDS OPIC INSURED
US INVESTOR

REF: NDJAMENA 1757

1. AGRICOLA PRESIDENT IMMANUEL LICHTENSTEIN, WHO HAS BEEN IN NDJAMENA SINCE OCTOBER 11, REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE OCT 29 WITH GOC IN ORDER OBTAIN TRANSFER PROFITS FROM RESIDENT TO NON-RESIDENT BANK ACCOUNT (AND THUS TO PERMIT TRANSFER ABROAD). LICHTENSTEIN CONSIDERS GOC INACTION CLEAR VIOLATION CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT ADDING THAT IF MATTER CANNOT SOON BE RESOLVED HE MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY INVOKE OPIC GUARANTY (CONTRACT #8636 OF NOV 21, 1974).

2. ACCORDING LICHTENSTEIN, AGRICOLA HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TRANSFER CFA 20 MILLION WORTH OF PROTIFS (WHICH TOTAL CONSIDERABLY MORE), TO NON-RESIDENT ACCOUNT SINCE LAST MAY, WITH INTENTION REPATRIATING 5-10 MILLION TO US. HE STATES HE HAS PRODUCED ALL DOCUMENTS EQUESTED BY GOC CERTIFYING THAT ALL TAX AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF AGRICOLA TO GOC HAVE BEEN MET. HE HAS RECENTLY EMPLOYED NEW MANAGER SOR COMPANY AND NEW FIELD MAN, AND SOME 110 CHADIAN EMPLOYEES ARE ENGAGED IN AGRICOLA GUM ARABIC PLANTATION WORK. HE HAS BEEN TOLD AT WORKING LEVEL MINFINANCE AND CENTRAL BANK THAT TRANSFER FUNDS REQUIRES AP-
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PROVAL MINISTER PLAN AND FINANCE GEN DJOGO. DESPITE REPEATED

REQUESTS, HOWEVER, LATTER HAS REFUSED FOR PAST TWO WEEKS MEET WITH LICHTENSTEIN TO DISCUSS MATTER. SECOND OUTSTANDING PROBLEM, OF SOMEWHAT LESSER CONSEQUENCE, IS THAT OF LEASE CONDITIONS FOR PLANTATION. AGRICOLA HAS WHAT LICHTENSTEIN DESCRIBES AS "ENABLING ACT" GIVING GOC CONCURRENCE, BUT GOC TO DATE HAS REFUSED NEGOTIATE FORMAL LEASE AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, EMB AWARE THAT SENIOR LEVELS GOC INCLUDING PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAVE HAD RESERVATIONS REGARDING AGRICOLA AGREEMENT WHICH WAS CONCLUDED UNDER PREVIOUS TOMBALBAYE GOVERNMENT. BUT WHATEVER MERITS OF CLAIMS OF EACH SIDE, SEEMS APPARENT THAT GOC OWES AGRICOLA CONSIDERED STATEMENT OF GOC POSITION AT LEAST. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM SOME MONTHS AGO, PRESIDENT INFORMED LICHTENSTEIN FINAL DECISION ON QUESTIONS REGARDING AGRICOLA WOULD BE MADE BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION KAMOUQUE. THEREFORE IF DEPT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, INTEND ON OCT 31 REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH KAMOUQUE TO DISCUSS MATTER, NOTING PARTICULAR INTEREST OF USG IN OPIC GUARANTEED US INVESTMENT AND ENQUIRING WHAT ARE GOC INTENTIONS REGARDING OUTSTANDING AGRICOLA PROBLEMS. DWYER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROFITS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BANK ACCOUNTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME02783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-0996
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751010/aaaaaiks.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NDJAMENA 1757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC INACTION REGARDNG TRANSFER FUNDS OPIC INSURED US INVESTOR
TAGS: BDIS, EFIN, PFOR, EAGR, CD, (LICHTENSTEIN, EMMANUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006